

Saudi-American Educational and Cultural Initiative Grants

Saudi-American Educational and Cultural Initiative Grants support innovative forms of collaboration between Saudi and U.S. non-governmental and community organizations, universities, entrepreneurs, cultural organizations and qualified individuals to expand the diversity of activities in the U.S.-Saudi partnership and develop the next generation of leaders, especially among youth, young professionals and women, to promote mutual understanding and respect through long-term partnership and cooperation between our two countries.

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is now accepting proposals from Saudi and U.S. non-governmental and community organizations, universities, entrepreneurs, cultural organizations or qualified individuals who propose to work together to develop or expand educational, professional and cultural exchange activities and promote dialogue and partnership between the people of the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Embassy is especially interested in identifying and supporting U.S.-Saudi partnerships that include a focus on the development of exchanges, projects and partnerships between U.S. and Saudi youth or women; or that involve the development of professional linkages in business, healthcare or media, including social media; or that build on Saudi efforts to modernize and build a knowledge-based economy; or that expand Saudi-U.S. educational partnerships; or that are submitted by or involve alumni of exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. or Saudi governments.

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Academic and professional lectures, seminars and speaker programs;
- Artistic and cultural workshops, joint performances and exhibitions;
- Cultural heritage conservation and preservation projects;
- Cultural, professional and academic exchanges and projects;
- Professional development workshops and training.

Requests for funding provided by the U.S. Embassy should be at least \$3000 and not more than \$25,000; the most competitive proposals will include significant funding from other sources as cost-share in the project budget.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis from qualified U.S. or Saudi individuals and organizations. Proposals must include a letter of support from the proposed U.S. or Saudi partner, whether a qualified individual or organization. The proposal or letter of support from the Saudi partner must confirm the ability and willingness of the Saudi partner to sponsor the visa(s) for the U.S. partner, if necessary, and to assume responsibility for all travel and logistics within

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia is not able to assist with visas or travel arrangements funded through the grant.

Proposals will be evaluated for funding by an Embassy committee on a monthly basis. The committee will identify projects with outstanding artistic, cultural, and educational merits for funding. In deciding which projects to support, the committee will give consideration to the full range and diversity of American and Saudi educational and cultural traditions and seek to target geographically and demographically diverse audiences. Projects that involve direct, in-depth professional interaction, with the potential for sustained collaboration and that show evidence of professional accomplishment and innovation will receive priority.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The proposal demonstrates that the Saudi and U.S. individuals and/or organizations have sufficient expertise, skills and capacity to implement the project.
- The project will make a substantive contribution to the expanding types of partnerships between Saudi and U.S. individuals, organizations and institutions.
- The individuals and/or organizations demonstrate that they have a clear understanding of the topic or issue that the project is aiming to address.
- The individuals and/or organizations have identified appropriate beneficiaries or target groups to maximize project outputs and outcomes and the project has a clear focus and manageable scope.
- The project idea and approach is innovative yet proposed project activities are concrete and detailed and supported by a work plan.
- The project budget is well-organized, detailed and reasonable. There are no budget lines labeled “miscellaneous expenses.” The budget demonstrates that the individual or organization has devoted time to plan for and assess actual expenses associated with the project instead of providing rough estimates. No grant funds are proposed for the purchase of food, drink, or entertainment.
- The proposal clearly articulates how the partners will assess and measure performance throughout the project implementation phase using quantitative and qualitative assessment tools.
- The proposal describes clearly the approach that will be used to ensure the sustainability of the project or partnership.

The following types of projects are not eligible for funding:

- Requests by organizations and individuals who are neither Saudi nor American;
- those relating to partisan political activity;

- humanitarian or charitable activities;
- conferences and individual trips abroad;
- trade activities;
- fund-raising campaigns;
- commercial projects;
- scientific research;
- projects aiming only at primary institutional development of the organization; or
- projects that duplicate existing projects.